

Today's News - Thursday, January 14, 2016

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow will be a no-newsletter day - we'll be back Monday, January 18.

- Pritzker chatter continues: Hawthorne and Miranda discuss Aravena's win and projects (duds included): "a lot of us are dismayed that instead of the starchitecture model really crumbling we're simply getting new stars to replace the old ones - is he just a younger, fresher model?"
- Hawthorne has his own fascinating Q&A with Aravena re: Pinochet, postmodernism, his buildings, being a Pritzker juror, and his Venice Biennale plans (laughter included).
- Menking muses about what it means "when the winner of the 2016 Pritzker Prize just came off the jury of the very same award" (at least Shigeru Ban and Fukihiko Maki waited 5 years).
- Wong explains why she thinks Adjaye "is the best bet" to design the Obama Library: "only he has that wealth of experience working in neighborhoods with the same spirit as the South Side of Chicago" (she is also former managing director of Adjaye's practice...hmmm).
- Hadid "has reacted angrily" to the Japan Sports Council's refusal to pay for her 2020 Tokyo Olympics stadium designs "unless she gives up the copyright and signs what amounts to a gagging order" (it's "tantamount to extortion").
- Farrell fans the flames against Piano's 72-story "Paddington Pole," calling the proposal "too piecemeal and opportunistic."
- O'Sullivan has issues with Piano "planting a glass middle finger" in Paddington: "planners may dream of the glamour of Manhattan or Chicago," but what they're approving looks more like the slapdash tower sprawl of Atlanta - Farrell's alternative plan is an antidote to all this."
- Wiles ponders the very different fates of the Barbican and Robin Hood Gardens, "two brutalist housing estates: one thriving, one facing demolition. The wider issue is the sustained assault on social housing."
- SHoP sets its sights on building 50 resilient schools in earthquake-ravaged Nepal, and will "release the designs so other organizations can use them."
- Why "smart cities will be necessary for our survival": Singapore "is the poster child for a city in upgrade mode" - Helsinki has some big ideas, too.
- Two we couldn't resist: O'Sullivan makes the case for why London or Berlin should name a street after David Bowie (we say why not in both cities - and NYC and...?): "Cities run like a seam of coal through his music" - with the music to prove it.
- 10 of the best gentrification cartoons, from Doonesbury to Grayson Perry (and one from 1921).
- Weekend diversions:
- The Toronto Design Offsite Festival "takes design out of the studio and into the city" (sounds like fun!).
- "Foster + Partners: Architecture, Urbanism, Innovation" at Tokyo's Mori Art Museum shows "Foster's rise from a humble, working-class background in industrial Manchester to one of the starchitects of our time."
- over.under's "HACLab Pittsburgh: Imagining the Modern" at the Carnegie Museum of Art, and the book "Heroic: Concrete Architecture and the New Boston" highlight "the opportunities in Modernism's legacy."
- Maxwell cheers "Comfort Zones" at Galerie Poirel, Nancy, France, and its "unconventional procurement and curatorial process" and "jigsaw-puzzle approach" that "critiques material culture by juxtaposing related objects" (great pix!).
- Webb welcomes (with a few minor quibbles) McCarter's "Steven Holl": it proves "no contemporary architect has explored the potential of architecture so consistently and profoundly or on such a broad canvas as Holl. This may be the best survey to date of this protean architect."
- An excerpt from Jose's "Places Women Make" that ponders the point that "women have often made an impact on their cities, but they are rarely recognized and often challenged."
- A pick of 7 favorite projects from "Fifty Under Fifty: Innovators of the 21st Century" by Russell, Maddox, and Ameen.

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Alejandro Aravena: What his Pritzker win says about architecture's top prize: Christopher Hawthorne and Carolina A. Miranda discuss: [He] had a fair degree of international acclaim going into this...But the Chile part of the equation will definitely throw people for a loop...a lot of us are dismayed that instead of the starchitecture model really crumbling...we're simply getting new stars to replace the old ones...Is Aravena so different from Rem Koolhaas, Renzo Piano, et al, or is he just a younger, fresher model? - Los Angeles Times

Q&A: Pritzker winner Alejandro Aravena on Pinochet, postmodernism and building a house for \$7,500: ...a conversation about his buildings, his own stint on the Pritzker jury and his plans for this year's Venice Architecture Biennale...[We both laugh.] By Christopher Hawthorne - Los Angeles Times

Pritzker Jury: Pathway to The Stars? What does it mean when the winner of the 2016 Pritzker Prize - Chile's Alejandro Aravena - just came off the jury of the very same award? Two past winners were on the jury prior to receiving the award, but won 5 years after departing. By William Menking - The Architect's Newspaper

The Real Reason Architect David Adjaye Is the Best Bet to Design President Obama's Library: The public's appetite for starchitects has made the competition...an ongoing, glamorous story...seven firms made the shortlist...only Adjaye has that wealth of experience working in neighborhoods...with the same spirit as the South Side of Chicago - a place that is diverse, complicated, and vital to the national conversation. By Karen Wong -- Adjaye Associates; Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Renzo Piano; John Ronan Architects; SHoP Architects; Snohetta; Tod Williams Billie Tsien - artnet News

Japan Sports Council 'refusing to pay' British architect for 2020 Tokyo Olympics stadium designs: Zaha Hadid Architects has reacted angrily to the attempt...to effectively seize ownership of the copyrighted designs: ...refusing to pay...unless she gives up the copyright and signs what amounts to a gagging order, it has been claimed...tantamount to extortion"...When Kengo Kuma's design was announced, critics remarked on the "remarkable similarities".... - Telegraph (UK)

Top UK architect condemns Renzo Piano's 'Paddington Shard': Sir Terry Farrell, who worked on original masterplan for area, says final proposal is 'too piecemeal and opportunistic': ...72-storey tower...popularly known as the Paddington Pole...he notes he backed the plans for the Shard. "However," he adds, "I consider the circumstances are very significantly different..." - Guardian (UK)

Can a Skyscraper Constitute Sprawl? A spat between two architects has London wondering just how far the city should let its tower boom go: Planting a glass middle finger in West London...planners may dream of the glamour of Manhattan or Chicago, but what they're actually approving looks more like the slapdash tower sprawl of Atlanta...Farrell's alternative plan is an antidote to all this. By Feargus O'Sullivan -- Renzo Piano; Terry Farrell - CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

A tale of two brutalist housing estates: one thriving, one facing demolition: Flats in London's privately owned Barbican go for £4m, while...a similarly iconic social housing estate is set for demolition: If Robin Hood Gardens had been blessed with a different owner perhaps it would now be as desirable a place to live as the Barbican...The wider issue is the sustained assault on social housing over the past 35 years. By Colin Wiles -- Chamberlin, Powell and Bon; Alison and Peter Smithson - Guardian (UK)

SHoP Architects Will Build 50 Resilient Schools In Nepal (And Share The Designs): The structures are easy to construct, adaptable, and designed to survive future natural disasters: ...plans to release the designs so other organizations can use them...This open-source approach to humanitarian architecture is evolving elsewhere, too. By Diana Budds - images1- Fast

Smart cities will be necessary for our survival: Urban upgrades will be coming to metropolises old and new: Singapore is the poster child for a city in upgrade mode...It's not only developed economies that are reinventing urban living. Large, growing cities in developing countries are also adapting. - Wired UK

David Bowie Was Really Singing About City Life: All the more reason to name a street after the late artist in Berlin or London: Cities run like a seam of coal through his music...In his later song "Thru These Architects Eyes," he name-checks architects Philip Johnson and Richard Rogers and celebrates the dramatic cityscapes they've partly created... By Feargus O'Sullivan-CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

From Doonesbury to Grayson Perry: 10 of the best gentrification cartoons: Even 100 years ago, gentrification (or whatever it was called back then) was a subject of satire - and cartoonists have been sticking the knife in with relish every since. - Guardian (UK)

Toronto Design Offsite Festival (TO DO) returns January 18-24: ...takes design out of the studio and into the city, transforming the city's downtown into a hub for all things design. - Canadian Architect magazine

Foster + Partners Major Retrospective Opens at Tokyo's Mori Art Museum: ...will chart the company's trajectory from a small firm founded...in 1967, to the internationally celebrated practice...to show Foster's rise from a humble, working-class background in industrial Manchester to one of the starchitects of our time... "Foster + Partners: Architecture, Urbanism, Innovation" [images]- Artinfo

Concrete Examples: A new exhibition and book detail the opportunities in Modernism's legacy "HACLab Pittsburgh: Imagining the Modern" at the Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh...about the importance of preserving the Iron City's urban legacy... "Heroic: Concrete Architecture and the New Boston" by Mark Pasnik, Michael Kubo and Chris Grimley...goal is to guide people toward thinking differently about this specific time period in Boston's history. -- over,under-Architect Magazine

"Comfort Zones": An unconventional procurement and curatorial process by France's centre for contemporary art has resulted in an exhibition that critiques material culture by juxtaposing related objects...Centre National des Arts Plastiques/CNAP's jigsaw-puzzle approach looks eminently more capable of provoking both its audience, and its objects, to question the current state of the discipline; at Galerie Poirel, Nancy. By Peter Maxwell [images]- Icon (UK)

"Steven Holl" by Robert McCarter: As the monograph...demonstrates, no contemporary architect has explored the potential of architecture so consistently and profoundly or on such a broad canvas as Holl. And, if he had built nothing, he would still deserve acclaim...This may be the best survey to date of this protean architect... By Michael Webb- FORM magazine

Why have so few women been architects of our cities: Women have often made an impact on their cities, but they are rarely recognised and often challenged, according to Jane Jose's new book "Places Women Make" [excerpt]- Guardian (UK)

7 Innovative Architecture Projects You Need to Know About: Our favorite designs from a new book highlighting the top innovators around the world... "Fifty Under Fifty: Innovators of the 21st Century" by Beverly Russell, Eva L. Maddox/Perkins+Will, and Farooq Ameen/City Design Studio. -- Jeanne Gang/Studio Gang Architects; Ralph Johnso/Perkins+Will; Qingyun Ma/MADA s.p.a.m.; Stanley Tigerman/Tigerman McCurry Architects/Marion Weiss/Weiss/Manfredi; MAD Architects; Ball-Nogues Studio; Caza; Contemporary Architecture Practice; Baumgartner+Uriu; Patrick Tighe Architecture- Architectural Digest

Coop Himmelb(l)au: Dalian International Conference Center, Dalian, China: A multi-functional "small city within a city" with conference and event rooms for 7,000 visitors. A landmark for the prospering harbor city. By Kirsten Kiser -- Wolf D. Prix

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